



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 13 2012

Mr. Jamie Sturgess  
V.P. Corporate Development  
Rosemont Copper Company

Via e-mail: [jsturgess@rosemontcopper.com](mailto:jsturgess@rosemontcopper.com)

Dear Mr. Sturgess,

This is in response to your undated letter, emailed to EPA Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld on March 23, 2012, proposing a presentation and series of technical briefings for EPA Region 9 staff regarding the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine project. We appreciate the time that you and your team took out of your schedules last March 6, 2012 to show Jared and EPA staff the proposed project site and surrounding areas. I believe that having the opportunity to see the site and meet with stakeholders was a worthwhile experience for all involved. In addition, EPA managers and staff have met in person with Rosemont Copper Company on at least 3 separate occasions to receive presentations, briefings, and updates prior to submitting our comments on the Draft EIS to the Forest Service.

While EPA is certainly open to engaging in additional discussions with Rosemont for the purpose of discussing our comments on the Draft EIS, we view the Forest Service -- in its role as the Lead Federal Agency for the proposed action subject to NEPA -- as the lead for coordinating any such engagement. In order to avoid duplication of effort, ensure continued progress through the NEPA process, and most efficiently and effectively utilize the time of all parties involved, we believe it would be best to meet with you and your representatives within the framework of the Forest Service's issue resolution process, rather than schedule a potentially duplicative series of separate meetings between EPA and Rosemont.

We have been advised by the Forest Service that they are in the process of scheduling numerous technical meetings to work through the issues raised in the comments they received on the Draft EIS, and that EPA will be invited to participate in those meetings. Region 9 has already participated in a number of conference calls and provided substantive comments and recommendations regarding the Air Modeling Protocol for the proposed project. We are in the process of setting up meetings with the Forest Service regarding the additional analyses the Forest Service has performed or is proposing to perform to address issues raised in the NEPA process. We have also been in regular contact with the Army Corps of Engineers for updates and to provide additional information when requested.

Thank you for your letter. Please contact me at (415) 972-3843 if you have any questions.  
We look forward to a constructive dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enrique Manzanilla', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Enrique Manzanilla, Director  
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Jim Upchurch, Coronado National Forest  
Marjorie Blaine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Henry Darwin, Arizona DEQ